

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (Currently amended) A method for making a stent having a geometric shape comprising:

providing a metal sheet;

rolling said sheet within a pressurized roller to create a textured surface having a non-uniform texture; and

cutting a geometric shape into said textured surface.

Claim 5 (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein same said stent comprises:

a generally cylindrical device having a plurality of struts arranged in a circumferential fashion around said cylinder, said cylinder having a generally longitudinal axis, a radial dimension extending from said longitudinal axis, and a circumferential dimension extending around said axis, and said struts interconnected with one another;

said struts having a length, and said stent capable of being expanded from a first diameter to a second expanded diameter;

said struts having a cross-section comprising a width in said circumferential dimension and a thickness in said radial dimension;

and said strut thicknesses variable along their lengths.

Claim 6 (Previously amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said stent is used in combination with a balloon catheter.

Claim 7 (Previously amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said stent is self-expanding.

Claim 8 (Currently amended) A method as in claim 4 wherein variable stent has struts with a variable thickness and the said strut thickness is varied along the length of the strut so that said strut is thicker at its ends than in its middle.

Serial No. 10/976,923
Response to Amdt. Dated 12//05/03
CRD-970

Claim 9 (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said stent has struts and the said struts are configured so that there are portions of relative thickness and relative thinness along the length of the stent, and said portions of relative thickness are interspersed between said portions of relative thinness.

Claim 10 (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the stent has two ends with a portion of relative thickness at one of said ends, and a portion of relative thinness at a second of said ends.